
THE PIONEER WILLIAMS FAMILIES OF SMITH TOWNSHIP, POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA

VOLUME 2: ADDENDA



“When you drink from the stream
remember the spring.”

~ CHINESE PROVERB

THE PIONEER WILLIAMS FAMILIES OF SMITH TOWNSHIP, POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA VOLUME 2: ADDENDA

Published Nov 2014.

This book is paginated to be printed in duplex mode. The first two pages are the front and back sides of the front cover.

Compiled, researched, analyzed and written
(or, in other words – sliced, diced and puréed)

by

Steve Malone
11411 W Olympus Ct
Boise, ID 83713
(208) 322-5559
steveandalea@gmail.com

Refer to *The Pioneer Williams Family of Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana* by Steve Malone (2014) for acknowledgements of those who contributed to this research.

Public Domain

This book is hereby placed in the public domain. It is hoped that free and easy access to this research will enable my distant relatives to connect to a very rich past that will inspire our future generations to achieve their full potential.

Preface

These addenda are some of the research that was edited out of the book *The Pioneer Williams Families of Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana*. Generally, this information was moved here to preserve the flow of the main book. While researching the main volume, the establishment of a single fact – for instance when Simon Williams died – took considerable research and analysis. In that particular case, it was eventually distilled down to just a little over two pages of information. But taking a two page detour just to learn that Simon Williams died between 1834 and 1840 is far more effort than most readers want to go through. At the same time, it is inevitable that future researchers will find other records for Simon Williams in the area of Cynthiana and wonder which Simon is referred to in each of these records. Thus the information is preserved here for their future benefit. The other addenda are preserved here for similar reasons.

Here is a brief overview of what you'll find in this companion volume:

- An addendum that looks at the prevailing incorrect notion of Simon Williams' ancestry.
- An addendum that looks at a couple of different flawed thoughts on the ancestry of Moses Pruitt.
- The addendum that examines whether there are any records of Simon's existence after 1834. It looks at the records of Simon's same-named grandchildren to make certain that no such records were actually his records.
- An addendum is dedicated to John Clark Williams. Even though he is proven not to have been a son of Simon Williams, he clearly lived near several of Simon's children as he moved around Smith Township and its periphery. And there will always be people that, based upon such proximity, will feel that he must have been Simon's son. This addendum shows how there is nothing to support that view. It also proves the identities of John Clark Williams' children.
- One addendum discusses what is known about the other Williams families in Posey County, as it is natural to wonder if the early Williams families were somehow related. yDNA testing assures us that there were at least a few different early Williams families in the area, and it could be there were a half dozen or more.
- And the final addendum examines the others who have recorded family histories of Simon's various children, since understanding where they likely obtained their information can help us assess the reliability of the information that they present to us. And knowing which of Simon's children that they descend from helps evaluate where most of their efforts were concentrated, and where they may have been less inclined to dig deeply to find answers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface.....	ii
Addendum 1: Simon Williams' Ancestors?.....	1
DAR "Proof"	2
The 1808 Will of Simon Williams, Senior	4
The Wills of Simon Williams, Junior	6
Summary	8
Addendum 2: Moses B. Pruitt's Ancestors?.....	9
Colonel Joseph Prewitt	9
Michael Prewitt, Junior.....	11
Moses Pruitt, Senior.....	11
Addendum 3: When did Simon Williams Die?	12
Property A.....	12
Property B	12
Properties C.....	13
Property D.....	13
Conclusion	14
Addendum 4: John Clark and Ritter (Johnson) Williams.....	15
Proven Children	21
Unproven Children.....	24
Level of Proof Determination	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Addendum 5: Other Williams Families Near Cynthiana.....	26
Posey County	26
Gibson County	28
Vanderburgh County.....	30
Addendum 6: A Look at Simon Williams Family Researchers.....	31
John Clark Williams Descendants	32
Phebe (Williams) Pruitt Descendants	33
Bennet Williams Descendants	36
Enoch Williams Descendants	38
Lewis Williams Descendants.....	39
Jemima (Williams) Cater Descendants.....	40
Non-Descendants	41
Descent Unknown.....	43

“One man may hit the mark, another blunder;
but heed not these distinctions.
Only from the alliance of the one,
working with and through the other,
are great things born.”

- ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY

Addendum 1: Simon Williams' Ancestors?

It is only natural once an ancestor is discovered to search for those that preceded him or her. Unfortunately, in the chaos of the Civil War many early court records of Virginia and elsewhere were lost, suggesting a likely reason why finding Simon Williams' true ancestors has proven so elusive. But despite a lack of supporting facts, many people choose to claim his parentage by one individual or another. The most popular such speculation is that his parents were Ann and Simon Williams of Warren County, North Carolina. So we'll take a moment to see if there is a factual basis for such a belief.

The primary source of confusion and misinformation on this topic derives from *Looking Ten Generations Back: with connecting families* by Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey (after 1934), a scant 37 pages dedicated to ten generations of two families (that of Bennet Williams and that of Polly Martin), plus several generations of a number of other families. She wrote:

"THE WILLIAMS LINE

*"From the Will of **Robert Williams** of Bute County, North Carolina (Nutbush District) May 19, 1772, mentions his wife, **Anna**, and sons **Seth, Ashkenas, Francis, Nimrod, John, Archelus, Parmeus, Simon, Robert** and **Mary** [sic: a son named Mary?].*

*"**Simon Williams**, will dated Aug. 22, 1808, mentions son **Simon**.*

*"**Simon Williams**, born Oct. 17, 1753 in Revolutionary War Nutbush District, married **Polly Ann** born Sept. 4, 1759."*

In two succinct sentences she had unintentionally contributed two red herrings to distract serious researchers from finding the true ancestors of Simon Williams (though it's somewhat doubtful that a clear public record of such antecedents exists). But far too many others have adopted her statements as fact, so it's worth reviewing some such efforts before clearly demonstrating that there is no factual basis for these assertions.

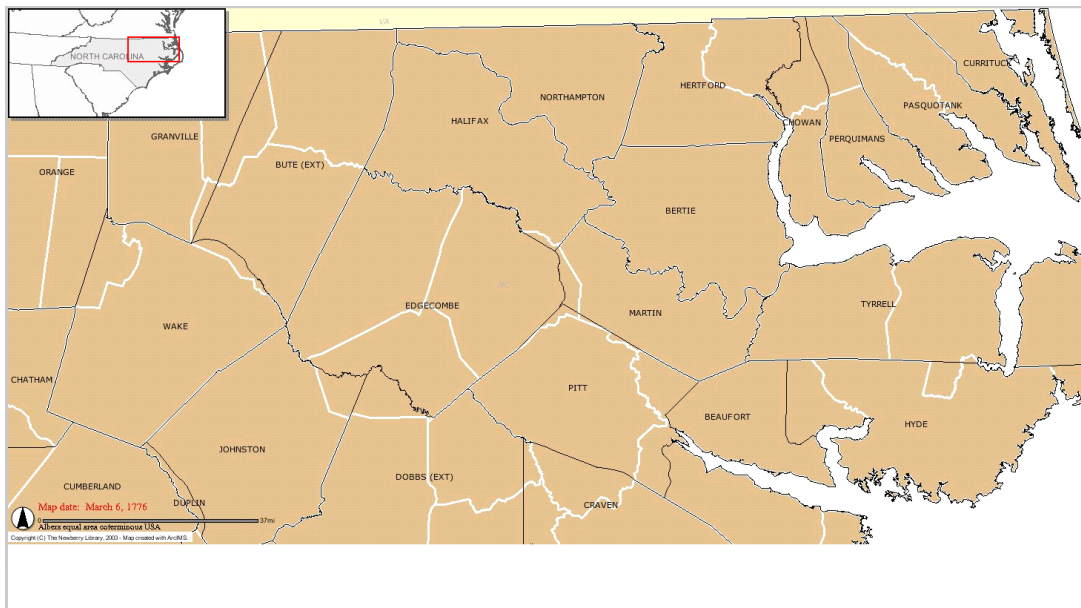
DAR “Proof”

On page 3 of *Our Montgomery Family History, 1780-1968*, an undated, anonymous typewritten article (which appears to have been authored by Paul Kasper Montgomery), is found the following:¹

“Phoebe (Williams) Pruitt was the daughter of Simon and Polly Ann ____? ____ Williams, who had come to Kentucky from the Carolinas. We find record of them in Bute and Rowan Counties of North Carolina.... Simon Williams, Sr.; grandfather of Phoebe Williams Pruitt served in a civilian capacity, during the Revolution, and his service has been accredited by the DAR.”

One fact from the above can be easily verified, the Daughters of the American Revolution record. There are currently two Simon Williams upon whose service DAR membership has been granted. One, DAR #126660, served in New Hampshire and was born in Ireland in 1729. The other, DAR # 126661, was born circa 1745 and rendered services while living in the Halifax District of North Carolina.

Halifax District likely referred to a military district made up of counties in the vicinity of Halifax County. The following map of 1776 county boundaries of North Carolina shows Halifax County’s western boundary is abutted by that of Bute County, as shown on the following map (just to the right of the inset map at the top):



North Carolina Counties in 1776. Map courtesy of Newberry Library.

In 1779 Bute County was split to form Franklin and Warren Counties. Later Census records find the above Simon Williams living in Warren County, North Carolina.

¹ This was apparently written by Paul Kasper Montgomery, a grandson of Phoebe Elizabeth (Pruitt) and Samuel Montgomery.

All DAR memberships which are based upon the Simon Williams of North Carolina are all descended from a single son, William, who died in Warren County, North Carolina in 1816. Of the six applications based upon this Simon, five are descended from his grandson, Franklin Simon Williams, b. 1806 Warren County, North Carolina, d. 1870 Montgomery County, Tennessee. The one exception descends from William Allison Williams, who curiously was born and died the same years and the same place. There clearly is no direct relation to our Simon.

To further confirm this fact, in *A Roster of Revolutionary ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution* is the following entry describing the above noted Simon Williams of North Carolina, where it notes that the son of this Simon had never married:²

“WILLIAMS, SIMON, b. ca. 1745, N.C., d. 22 Aug. 1808, Warren Co., N.C., m. ca 1769 Ann ---, d. 29 Dec. 1826, Warren Co., N.C. SERVICE: Patriot who furnished supplies. Also signed the Oath of Allegiance, Nutbush District, N.C. Nov. 1777 - Aug. 1778, to proclaim his loyalty to the Colonists as they fought to gain Freedom from the tyranny of the English government. CHILDREN: William, m. Sally ---; Simon, unmarried; Allison, m. Martha Courtney; Peggy, m. Anthony Sale; Catey, m. William Dodson; Polley, m. --- Town; Betsey, m. Robert Payne; Dedney or Dedema, m. Joseph Green. DESCENDANT: HUFF, Mabel Williams [Mrs. Marvin J., Sr.], No. 388669.”

² The source of this information was likely *Warren County, North Carolina Wills*, Book 14, page 304.

The 1808 Will of Simon Williams, Senior

What we've reviewed thus far should be enough to conclusively prove that he is not our Simon Williams. But to remove any lingering doubts, let's review the 1808 will of Simon Williams. The following transcription of which was provided by Deloris Williams.³ All grammar and spelling as per her transcription:

"In the name of God Amen

*"I **Simon Williams** of the County of Warren and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and disposing memory to Constitute Declare and Ordain this to be my last Will and Testament [sic] in manner and form that is to say and do hereby Revoke all other Will or Wills made by me*

*"Item -I lend Unto my Beloved Wife **Ann Williams** during her natural life the following Negroes and there future increase **Harry Pompey Tom Bet Suck Joseph Winney Tiney and Boson**, also the land and plantation whereon I now live containing 640 acres also all my stock of Horses Cattle Sheep & Hogs also all my household and kitchen [sic] furniture Except one Bed and furniture also all my plantation Utensels [sic] of every kind Likewise the crop of every kind the crop or crops Nevertheless is subject and liable [sic] for the payment of my debts & my will is that the property lent to my wife at her death, be Equally divided amongst all my children with its future increase except my daughter **Betsy Payne** whose part shall be desposed [sic] of as hereafter worded*

*"Item -I give and Devise Unto my son **William Williams** the following Negros and there future increase **Ben Rachel Hannah Solomon and Burwell** also the tract of land whereon I now live containing 640 acres Except the mill and 2 acres adjoin'g thereto the 2 acres to be laid off in the most suitable [sic] manner to him and his heirs and assigns for ever*

*"Item -I give and devise unto my son **Simon Williams** the following Negros and there future increase **Cate Anthony William Sandy Marina & George** also one half of the mill and half of the two acres of land after the death of his said Mother to him and his Heirs and assigns for ever*

*"Item -I give and devise unto my son **Allason Williams** the following Negroes and there future increase **Sarah Jerry Nelley Nelson Effey Peter** also one half of the mill and half of the 2 acres adjoining thereto after the death of his said Mother to him and her heirs and assigns for ever*

*"Item -I give and devise unto my daughter **Peggey Sale** the following Negroes and there future increase [sic] **Nan Wallace Rolf Lucey Charles Warren Tenah Moses and Mariah** to her and her heirs and assigns for ever*

*"Item -I give and devise unto my daughter **Catey Dodson** the following negroes and there future increase **Lank Beck Silviah Green and Caswell** to her and her Heirs and assigns for ever*

³ Warren County, North Carolina Wills, Book 14, page 304, probated Feb Term 1809.

*“Item -I give and devise unto my daughter **Polley Towns** the following Negroes and there future increase **Harry** and **Molly** his wife **Frank Easter Nelson Austin Lewis Matilda** and **Benjamin** to her and her Heirs and assigns for ever*

*“Item -I give and devise unto my daughter **Dediney Green** the following Negroes and there future increase **Elijah Ephraim Aron Nancy Raney** and **Fanney** to her and her Heirs and assigns for ever*

*“Item -I lend unto my son **Allason Williams** and my son in law **Anthony Sale** in trust for the only use and benefit of my daughter **Betsy Payne** during her natural life against the claim or control or use of her present or future husband the following Negroes and there [sic] futur [sic] increse **Thena** and her two children the names not known, **Daniel Ransom** and **Cresey** my will and desire is that the Negroes and there future increse lent to my son **Allason Williams** and **Anthony Sale** in trust for the use and benefit of my said daughter **Betsey Payne** against the claim or controle [sic] of her present husband or husbands during her natrl [sic] life shall be equally divided amongst the heirs of her boddy [sic] for ever but for wants of such my will and desire that the said Negroes and there future increse be equally devided [sic] among my other children or there representatives*

*“Item -I give and devise unto my grand daughter **Nancy Williams Dodson** one Negro girl named **Milley** and her futur increse One fether [sic] bed and furniture to her and her heirs and assigns for ever*

*“Item -I give and devise unto my grand daughter **Hapsey Sale** one Negro girl named **Jinney** and her future increse to her and her heirs and assigns for ever*

*“Item -I give and devise unto my grandson **Robert Jones Williams** son of **Allason Williams** one Negro boy the name of **Joe** son of **Suck**, to him and his heirs and assigns for ever*

*“I constitute and appoint my son **Simon Williams** and my son in law **Anthony Sale** my Executors to this my last will and Testament in testimony [sic] whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this 22nd day of August 1808*

*“(signed) **Simon Williams***

Signd Seald and approved in presents of us who being call on to witness the same

Wm Person

Lundy Sims

Terisha Turner

Edmd. G. Brodie”

So, the above establishes that this Simon Williams also had a son named Simon, who we'll refer to as Simon Williams, Junior. It also establishes Senior's other children. You find those same names mentioned in Junior's wills, which are given in the following section.

The Wills of Simon Williams, Junior

The following are the original and modified wills of the son Simon noted in the will of Simon Williams, Senior. Junior died around 1831, leaving no children (transcribed by Jean Vaughn Hendricks):

*“Will of **Simon Williams** of Warren County, NC*

*“In the name of God Amen, I **Simon Williams** of the County of Warren and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and disposing (sic) memory do and ordain this to be my last will and testament and herby revoking all wills heretofore made by me in manner or form that is to say*

*“Item I give my nephew **Robert J Williams** my negroes **Antony William** and **Sandy Mirinia** and her four children **Granderson, John, Cheryann** and **Tiney** and my Dukes Branch track of land and negroe [sic] **Betty** to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item I give my nephew **Simon W. Green** my Negroes **Sam Neal Harry Leavy** and **Thiney** (this name may not be correct) and her four children **Frank, Rhoda, Vilet,** and **Tolly** and the track of land my mother now lives on Great Nutbush Creek Six hundred and thirty eight acres to him and his heirs for ever and also my silver patent watch.*

*“Item I give to my nephew **Sherwood Green** my Negroe Man **Bob** and two hundred dollars to him and his heirs forever.*

*“Item I give my old Negroe woman **Cate** Twenty Dollars and three hundred weight of pork and three barrels of corn and for her my will and desire is that my Negroe Woman **Cate** and **George** Called **Blacky** and my Negroe girls **Celah** and **Harriot** to be liberated and freed. That is **Cate** and **George** at my death and **Celah** and **Harriot** at the age of Twenty one years old and my will is that my executor save one hundred dollars and put it out at Intrust [sic] to The two girls out to housekeeping. I desire that **Robert J** (may be Robert I) **Williams** take **Celah** and **Harriott** under his care until they become of age of twenty one years old. Then they are to receive there (sic) legacy of one Hundred dollars and the Intrust.*

*“And lastly my will is that all the property that I have not mentioned heretofore to be equally divided between my Sister **Peggy M Sale, Didamy Green** and my Brother **Alderson** (Allison) **Williams**.*

*“Children of **Caty Dodson**: Three Children **Nancy, Ellis, William Dodson** and **Edward Dodson, Alanson Williams**. Children to have one share divided amongst them **Robert Williams** excepted, also **Caty Dodson** three children one share divided amongst them.*

*“And lastly I nominate and appoint my nephews **Robert I Williams** and **Antony Sales** to be my Executors to this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I **Simon Williams** have Hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this Twenty seventh day of Jun one Thousand Eight hundred Twenty Five.*

“In presence of us:

*“/s/ **Simon Williams** (seal)*

*“**W B Hopkins Tho. T. David Stephen Turner**”*

The following modified will of Simon Williams, evidently written later than the first,⁴ was accepted by the court, even though he never signed nor dated it. This would be a later will because the first will mentions his mother as still living and the second will sets aside a family graveyard where his father’s and mother’s graves and others are located.

*“In the name of God Amen, I **Simon Williams** of County of Warren and State of North Carolina being of sound mind and desposeing [sic] memory do constitute and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament and hereby Revoking all other wills heretofore made by me in manner and form that is to say*

*“Item I give my nephew **Simon W. Green** my Negroes **Davy, Thiny, Frank, Rhoda, Vilet, Tolly, Hester and John, Harry, Sam, Neal and Ruben, Sook, Minervy, Gilbert and Horrace, Sam,**, **Titter, Lewis and Eliza and Tompy** and also the land whereon I know [sic] live and my Hargrove Track all containing seven hundred and eighty seven and one half acre also all my household and kitchen Furniture also my Waggon [sic], one ox cart, my stock of horses and Cattle, Hogs and Sheep that belong to the plantation Whereon I now live, one acre of land I except to be laid of ground my Father and Mothers graves and others to him and his heirs forever.*

*“Item I give my nephew **Thomas C. Williams** my negro Woman **Myranda** and her three children **Lizza, Jane and Miller** and there futer [sic] increase to him and his heirs forever and one yoke of oxen and Cart and my Vantrump mare.*

*“Item I give my Nephew **Sherwood Green** my Negroe [sic] Man **Solomon and Bob** to him and his heirs forever.”*

“Warren County February 1831

*“The foregoing instrument of writing being established, by a jury sworn and impannelled [sic] for that purpose, on the last will and testament of **Simon Williams** dec. It was therefore on motion, ordered to be recorded.*

*“**Test C. Drake** (this looks like CMBF)”*

The first will very clearly states that three of his siblings were Peggy M. Sale, “Didamy” Green and “Alderson Williams.” That matches up with his father’s will, where the same individuals are also found as siblings of the above Simon Williams.

⁴ These wills were likely found in Warren County, North Carolina Wills, Book 33, page 213.

Summary

The foregoing makes it crystal clear that the Simon Williams who died in early 1809 was not the ancestor of our Simon Williams: *his son Simon died in 1831, leaving his entire estate to nieces and nephews*. The year of Junior's birth is not known, but his siblings were born from the late 1750s to the late 1770s. Our Simon Williams is known to have been born in 1753, and could not have been directly related to the elder Simon Williams.

There is no direct evidence of even the name of our Simon's father, or of his father's residence at any time, from birth to death. Thus there are no clues that have been found that offer a hint of where it might be possible to find evidence of Simon's ancestors, though it does appear plausible that Simon was born in Virginia and migrated to Indiana with stops in at least North Carolina, Tennessee and Warren County (now Allen County), Kentucky.

Addendum 2: Moses B. Pruitt's Ancestors?

Earlier it was noted that in the collection of Robert E. Turman's articles⁵ that a descendant named Darby Scott had claimed that the father of Moses [B.] Pruitt of Armstrong Township was Colonel Joseph Prewitt.

Colonel Joseph Prewitt

In researching this possible lead, the following account was found. The person who relates this information was born in 1784 and was the eldest daughter of Col. Joseph Prewitt. Originally published in *The Huguenot Journal*, this account is found on page 5 of *The Prewitt-McDonald genealogy & allied families*, edited by M. Patricia Humphreys (1970):

"THE GENEALOGY OF THE PREWITT FAMILY

"From The Huguenot Journal, Volume VII.

"(Written by Mary J. Switzer for her sister, Margaret S. Givens, and dictated by her aunt, Martha T. Talbot, at the age of eighty-four years, at St. Louis, Missouri, February 25, 1868.)

"Michael Prewitt married first, Elizabeth Simpkins, cousin of John Adams, President of the United States. Their children were: (1) Rachel; (2) James; (3) Michael, Jr.; (4) Elisha; (5) Byrd; (6) Joseph; (7) Robert; (8) Joshua; (9) Judith; and (10) Elizabeth Prewitt.

"1...Rachel Prewitt married Robert Shipley.

"2...James Prewitt married, first, Elizabeth Street; second, Mrs. Mathews. Their children were: Nathaniel, John, Anne, Elizabeth and Micah.

"3...Michael Prewitt II, (jr) married (1), Elizabeth Hurt; Married (2), Sarah Hurt: 5 children: Mary, Sarah, Robert, Patrick, & Moses; married *..Terry.

"4...Elisha Prewitt married Tabitha Collins. Their children were: Joseph; Beverley; Fanny; Tabitha; Lucy; Christianna; Elisha; and Shelby Prewitt.

"5...Byrd Prewitt married Sally Hurt. Their children were: Elizabeth; Nancy; Martha; Joel; Obediah; Harvey; Robert; and Simeon Prewitt.

"6...Joseph Prewitt, (our grandfather) married, first, Leah Moss in 1782. Their children were: Martha Tomlinson Prewitt; Sally Moss Prewitt; Joel Prewitt, born 1787, died 1847; Judith Prewitt; Frederick Moss Prewitt.

"(NOTE: * Above Michael Prewitt, Jr. married (3), Miss Terry and had one child: Patience Prewitt.)

"6...Joseph Prewitt also married, second, Polly Price. Their children were Elizabeth Prewitt and Susan Prewitt.

⁵ *The Genealogy Newspaper Columns of Robert E. Turman*, Tri-State Genealogical Society (1987), page 365.

- “7...**Robert Prewitt** married **Martha Chandler**. Their children were: **Vaul Allen Prewitt; Elizabeth S. Prewitt; Willis C. Prewitt; Robert C. Prewitt; James Prewitt; Levi Prewitt; Mary H. Prewitt; and Nelson Prewitt.**
- “8...**Joshua Prewitt** married **Sally Adams**, niece of **John Quincy Adams**, President of the United States. Their children were: **James Prewitt; Mildred Prewitt; Susan Prewitt; and William Prewitt.**
- “9...**Judith Prewitt** married Mr. **Daniel Mitchell**. Their children were: **Michael Mitchell; Elizabeth Mitchell; Joanna Mitchell; Daniel Mitchell; Andrew Mitchell; Robert Mitchell and John Mitchell.**
- “10...**Elizabeth Prewitt** married Mr. **Adams**, and died young.”

Clearly, the author of the above, a child of Colonel Joseph Pruitt, had no recollection that she had a brother named Moses, who lived in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. In addition, the Preface to the book includes the following statement on page two:

*“The children of **Joseph Prewitt**, all eleven of them, migrated en masse from Jessamine County, Kentucky, to the state of Missouri, and there seems to be no question that many of his descendants believed that **Joseph Prewitt** was a French Huguenot who migrated from France to the Carolinas and then moved to Kentucky. However, **Joseph Prewitt** was a son of **Michael Prewitt, Sr.**, born in Virginia, the son of native Virginians, and there is no evidence to show that he was ever in the Carolinas.”*

The important point here is that nobody “jumped ship” en route to Missouri – they all reached there together. But there’s also a mismatch between these two sections, one listing eight children of Col. Joseph Prewitt and the other claiming that there were a total of eleven children. The missing three children are discussed on pages 20 & 21 of the book, where a detailed genealogy is provided. However, the confusion is only amplified, as Vaul Allen Prewitt is dropped from the list, and Nancy, Price, Pleasant and Margaret are added. But the important consideration for our research is that no Moses is listed as having been a son of Colonel Joseph Pruitt. So we are left to wonder what information Darby Scott uncovered and that had eluded Martha Thompson Prewitt, who, if Mr. Scott was corrected, would have been Moses’ sister?

Michael Prewitt, Junior

Of course there is then the account by other family members that the father of Moses was Michael Prewitt, Jr. (child #3 in the above genealogy, the brother of Colonel Joseph Prewitt). Michael Prewitt, Junior died in 1845 while on a visit to Oldham, Kentucky, but had been living in Crawford County, Indiana.⁶ In 1820 he and his father Joshua are found in the 1820 Census for Henry County, Kentucky, where Michael's age range infers that he was born between 1776 and 1794. Our Moses Pruitt was born in 1786, so Moses could not have been the son of Michael Prewitt, Junior.

Moses Pruitt, Senior

In the main book, it is proven that one of the sons of Moses Pruitt, Senior was Abraham Pruitt, and various sources help to determine that he had three other brothers who for a time had lived in Warren County, Kentucky, including Moses B. Pruitt. Abraham's relationship to his father is based upon his death record, which names his father and mother (Rachel). In addition, the biography of one of Abraham's grandsons reiterates that information:⁷

*“**ENOCH PRUITT** was born January 25, 1840, in Allen County, where he has since resided. His father, **Elijah Pruitt**, was also born in Allen County, September 27, 1811; he was a son of **Abram Pruitt**, who was born in Sparklingburg [sic] District, S. C., he was a son of **Moses Pruitt**. **Elijah Pruitt** was three times married; first, in 1829, to **Nancy Mohundro**, of Tennessee; to their union nine children were born, of whom **Enoch** is the sixth. His second marriage was in 1849, with **Malinda Brough**, of Allen County, who bore him six children; his third marriage was in 1864, to **Mary F. Brough**, who became the mother of three children. January 20, 1859, **Enoch** was joined in matrimony with **Sarah F.**, daughter of **Isaac** and **Mary (Buckhanon) Boucher**, of Allen County. To them have been born **Amanda**, **Mary (Divine)**, **Almarinda**, **Lamon**, **Harrison J.** and **Pearla L.** Mr. **Pruitt** had his own way to make in the world; starting, as he did, with only one horse and \$20, he has become the owner, by industry and economy, of 175 acres of well improved and productive land. He has been since 1875 a magistrate, and is a member of the Methodist Church. In politics he is a Democrat.”*

Thus Moses B. Pruitt's father was Moses Pruitt, Senior and not Colonel Joseph Prewitt or Michael Prewitt, Junior. This topic is discussed in greater detail in *Volume 1* of this book.

⁶ *The Prewitt-McDonald genealogy & allied families*, edited by M. Patricia Humphreys (1970), page 37.

⁷ Found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~kygenweb/kybiog/allen/pruitt.e.txt>, taken from *Kentucky: A History of the State* by Battle, Perrin, & Kniffin, 3rd ed., (1886).

Addendum 3: When did Simon Williams Die?

17 Jul 1834 is the last clear record that Simon was still alive, and at that time he was a widower. We don't find Simon in the 1840 Census, so the assumption is that he had died by that time. There are several deed records between 1834 and 1841 in the vicinity of Cynthiana for a Simon Williams, but it is not clear if it was him, because there were two other Simon's in the vicinity that cloud the picture. Both were his grandsons and both were old enough to have owned land during this period. So let's dig into this to see if perhaps there is a record of our Simon Williams after 17 Jul 1834. The two other Simons were:

1. Simon Williams, b. 1812, d. 1873, who married Lavina Sharer on 4 Apr 1833. He was the son of Bennet Williams, and
2. Simon Williams, b. 1816, d. 1860, who married Sally Boucher Spilman on 8 Jan 1836. He was the son of Lewis Williams.

Property A

On 8 Jan 1836 an unmarried Simon Williams sold the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 18, T4S, R11W in Gibson County to John M^c. Boren for \$150.⁸ The property had been patented only three months earlier by John Milton Forrest on 7 Oct 1835,⁹ who had made the initial land entry on 26 Mar 1833.¹⁰ No record of Simon Williams' purchase from John M. Forrest was found as part of this research.

Bennet's son Simon could not have been the owner of Property A, because his wife was not required to sign the deed when it was sold. So the owner of this property was either the son of Lewis, or the father of both Bennet and Lewis.

Lewis' son Simon was only 19 years old when this property was purchased (which is a couple of years younger than would typically be expected), but the facts related to Property B (which follows) suggest that he was the purchaser of Property A.

Property B

Simon Williams patented the S ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 18, T4S, R11W on 30 Mar 1837 in Gibson County,¹¹ making the initial land entry for that property on 1 Jan 1835.¹² The property was located ¼ mile due south of Property A. He sold Property B on 31 Dec 1840 to Daniel Carter (or more probably [since these deeds were transcribed into a ledger] Daniel Cater, son of Joseph Cater, who would then have been about 21 years old) for \$300¹³ (according to the 1850 Census, a decade later Daniel Cater was living next

⁸ *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book F*, pages 72-73. Witnessed by ? ? Duncan and Sarah Duncan.

⁹ *Government Land Office*, accession number IN0100_.078.

¹⁰ *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Pt 1: Vincennes District, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1948), page 95.

¹¹ *Government Land Office*, accession number IN0190_.235.

¹² *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Pt 1: Vincennes District, 1807-1877* by Margaret R. Waters (1948), page 95.

¹³ *Gibson County, Indiana Deeds, Book G*, page 537.

door to Joseph Cater, which was the same general vicinity of the property in question). This 1840 deed was signed by Simon Williams and Sarah, his wife. That would have been Lewis' son, who married Sarah Boucher Spilman in 1836. It is interesting that he had made the initial land entry in 1835, as he would have been only 18 years old.

With this property being so near Property A, it is likely that both properties were purchased by the same man, which would have been the son of Lewis Williams.

Properties C

There are several properties in close proximity to one another, which together we'll call Properties C. This includes two patents that were received by Simon Williams, and other additional nearby properties also purchased by Simon Williams from the original patentees or subsequent purchasers. They were likely all made by the same person.

- On 25 Jul 1834, Simon Williams purchased for \$100 the SW ¼ SE ¼ of Section 31, T4S, R11W from Young Ewing,¹⁴ who had made his entry on the land on 15 Jun 1832.¹⁵
- Simon Williams made a land entry for the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 31, T4S, R11W on 4 Dec 1835,¹⁶ and received patent to the land on 20 Mar 1837.¹⁷
- Simon Williams made a land entry for the SE ¼ SW ¼ of Section 31, T4S, R11W on 2 Jan 1837,¹⁸ and received patent to the land on 1 Sep 1838.¹⁹
- On 14 Dec 1839, Simon Williams purchased the NE ¼ SW ¼ of Section 31, T4S, R11W (35 and 20/100 acres) from Joel Harmon.

The above properties were likely purchased by Simon, son of Bennet Williams, as in the 1840 Census he was enumerated next to the household of Rachel Ewing, the mother of Young Ewing. A deed for the N ½ of the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 31, T4S, R11W was sold to James Calvert by Simon Williams and his wife Lavinia for \$112.²⁰ There is little doubt that further deed research would show that the same Simon Williams was the owner of all the above listed properties.

Property D

Simon Williams made a land entry for the NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 22, T4S, R10W in Vanderburgh County on 17 Dec 1840,²¹ and received patent to the land on 10 Dec 1841.²² This 40 acres property was sold by Simon Williams and his wife Sarah to

¹⁴ *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book C*, page 79.

¹⁵ *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1: Land Purchases 1805-1853*, Irene Aldridge Williams (1968), page 46.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, page 46.

¹⁷ *Government Land Office*, accession number IN0180_.265.

¹⁸ *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1: Land Purchases 1805-1853*, Irene Aldridge Williams (1968), page 46.

¹⁹ *Government Land Office*, accession number IN2170_.218.

²⁰ *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book 1*, page 187.

²¹ *Vanderburgh County Tract Book #1: Land Purchases 1805-1853*, Irene Aldridge Williams (1968), page 46.

²² *Government Land Office*, accession number IN2440_.290.

Thomas J. Malone (his brother-in-law) on 5 Jan 1842 for \$50, so this Simon was the son of Lewis Williams.²³

Conclusion

The last clear record of Simon Williams was on 17 Jul 1834, when he sold the final third of his 160 acre land patent. Subsequent property transactions involving a Simon Williams were almost certainly for his grandchildren. Since he does not appear in the 1840 Census, he likely died before then.

²³ *Vanderburgh County, Indiana Deeds, Book K*, page 219. An adjoining 40 acre parcel was also sold by them to Thomas J. Malone on the same date and is found on page 120 of the same deed book.

Addendum 4: John Clark and Ritter (Johnson) Williams

Despite assertions to the contrary, and the beliefs of the majority of John Clark Williams' descendants, there is no factual evidence that Simon Williams was John Clark Williams' father. The only published source supporting this view (aside from unsourced family histories) is *Posey County Cemetery Records, 1814-1979* by Carroll O. Cox (1979), where on pages 67 and 243 he lists graves for John and Ritter Williams together with the graves of Simon and Polly Ann/Phebe Ann Williams, with all four of them listed as having been buried together in two different cemeteries, each in a different township. In *Volume 1, Chapters 2 and 4* of this book, it was shown that neither of these entries was based upon direct evidence, but on information contributed by unidentified sources (probably Mary Christmas, who you can learn a bit more about in *Addendum 6*). It would seem that Carroll O. Cox felt fairly certain that the information was correct, even if the location of their graves was in doubt. But it looks as though this is yet another red herring, as explained in the analysis of the disposition of Simon's property found in *Volume 1, Chapter 2* of this book, where a preponderance of evidence points to the John Williams who was born 1796 in Tennessee, and who had married Elizabeth Rook, as being the son of Simon Williams. Still, it is worth fully exploring John and Ritter, as their lives were clearly intertwined with the lives of some of Simon's children.

John Clark Williams and Heneritta "Ritter" Johnson, according to family bible records, were married in 1801, and some sources think that event took place in Indiana Territory. In fact, John entered into a marriage bond with Arthur Johnson on 9 Oct 1801 for their marriage in Warren County, Kentucky.²⁴

On 23 Jul 1803, John Williams paid taxes for land in the waters of Bays Fork in Warren County, Kentucky.²⁵ He was living on that was land entered by Arthur Johnson and surveyed for an unknown Williams (only the last name is visible). He likely remained in Warren County at least through 1806, when he was witness to the wedding there of his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Johnson, to John Langston (there were a number of John Williams living in Warren County at the time, none of whom was living on land entered by Arthur Johnson, so it is not easy to track



Tintype from the collection of George Williams of Evansville, Indiana. From Susan Ranieri's Rainieri Family Tree at Ancestry.com.

²⁴ Western Kentucky University, Manuscript & Folklife Archives, *Warren County, Kentucky Marriage Records, MSS230, Box 2, folder 2, item 18.*

²⁵ *Warren County, Kentucky Tax Books, 1803, List 1, page 33, FHL microfilm #8255.*

him there via tax records). That he was living on land surveyed for a Williams in 1803 is interesting, as the first record of Simon Williams in Warren County was not until late 1804. Thus he was not living on a property connected with Simon Williams.

18-2

I know all men by their presents that we
John Williams and Arthur Johnston are held
and firmly bound unto his Excellency the
Governor for the time being in the sum of
£50 which payment I will and truly
to be made to the said Governor or his
successors in office. We bind ourselves and heirs
to jointly and severally firmly by their
presents sealed with our seals and Dated this
7th of October 1801.

The condition of the above obligation
is such that whereas there is a marriage
shortly intended to be solemnized between
the above bound John Williams and Ritter
Johnston for which a license is granted now
if there be no just cause to obstruct the
said marriage then this obligation to be
void else to remain in full force and virtue.

In Teste

Edw Bradshaw

John Williams
mark

Arthur Johnston

The bond for the marriage of John Williams and Ritter Johnson.

On page 303 of *History of Posey County* by Goodspeed Publishing (1886), in a section related to Smith Township, John Williams and William Harmon are listed along with Robert Montgomery and Samuel Johnson as having participated in the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1812.²⁶ There is a fairly good chance that it was John Clark Williams who served as a private from 15 Aug 1812 to 20 Sep 1812 in Captain Gulielmus

²⁶ The battle was actually fought on 7 Nov 1811.

Wiggins' Company of the 4th Regiment Indiana Militia (the Captain was commissioned 16 Jun 1810, based upon the results of an election held on 26 May 1810 at the house of Adam Young in Ohio Township, Knox County, Indiana Territory).²⁷ This would not have been Simon's son John, who would have only been around 16 years old at the time.²⁸

On 15 Jan 1818, William Smith patented the NW ¼ of Section 12, T4S, R12W from the Federal Government (which happens to have abutted the southernmost boundary of a 320 acre parcel patented by Jacob Williams on 8 Aug 1816). On 1 Jan 1818, William and Mary Smith sold a portion of the above mentioned property to John Williams for \$300.²⁹ The property was located less than ¼ mile from two properties owned by Lewis Williams and less than a mile from Simon's property. On 2 Jun 1819, William Smith of Allen County, Kentucky appointed John Williams of the state of Indiana and county of Posey to act as his attorney to convey an unspecified amount of land to Aaron Endicott. Also on 2 Jan 1819, John and Ritter Williams sold the northernmost 60 acres of William Smith's 160 acre parcel to Aaron Endicott for \$300, with John Johnson and Charles Whiting as witnesses.^{30,31}

It appears this John Williams entered 80 acres of land located in the W ½ SE ¼ of Section 33, T3S, R12W on 17 Nov 1819, only to have his property relinquished back to the federal government on 25 Jun 1827.³² This property was located in Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana, near the Old Union Church, to which Arthur Johnson had belonged. The subsequent purchaser of this property was John Johnson, likely the brother of George Johnson (Anna Williams' husband), as two years prior to John Williams' land entry, both Johnson men had been living on an adjoining property. Like John Williams, John Johnson had relinquished his property to the government, and both relinquishments took place on the same date.³³

Curiously, in the 1820 Census John's family appears to be living in Armstrong Township, Vanderburgh County very near Moses Pruitt.

In the 1830 Census his household is found a few miles to the west in Smith Township, Posey County, apparently more or less due south of Simon's patent. At that time, Enoch Williams was listed 14 households before his and Bennet was listed seven households after. His neighbors in that Census suggest he was then living perhaps less than a mile south of Simon's patent (which was located in the NW ¼ of Section 14, T4S, R12W).

²⁷ *A History of the National Guard in Indiana* by William D. Pratt (1901).

²⁸ *Muster, pay and receipt rolls of the Indiana Territory volunteers or militia of the period of the War of 1812, Volume 4*, pages 550, 551 and 552, U.S. Adjutant General's Office (1926) - not all muster rolls are still extant, so it is impossible to know if they served together at Tippecanoe.

²⁹ *Allen County, Kentucky Deeds, Book B 1815-1819*, pages 296a (positioned where page 292 should be) and 294.

³⁰ *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book A*, pages 416 & 417.

³¹ This was likely Charles Montague Whiting, who married Selina Endicott in 1818, as they were living in this neighborhood in 1820.

³² *Indiana Land Entries, Volume 2, Vincennes District, Part 1, 1807-1877* (1949) by Margaret R. Waters (1949), page 90.

³³ However, five years later he again made a land entry on the same property.

John patented 40 acres in the NE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 20, T4S, R12W in Robb Township, Posey County (which abutted the western boundary of Smith Township) on 28 Oct 1835. He and Henrietta sold the property for \$65 to Joseph C. Endicott barely a month later, on 5 Dec 1835,³⁴ with Jesse Davis and James B. Ogleby as witnesses.

The adjoining 160 acres (NW ¼ of Section 21, T4S, R12W in Smith Township) was patented on 25 Jul 1823 and 15 Sep 1823, by John Williams.³⁵ This was apparently John Williams, Junior, who a short time later on 17 Feb 1824 married Elizabeth Creek. That property was sold to James Williams for \$40 on 13 Dec 1845 by John and Elizabeth Williams.³⁶

We are fortunate that John left a will in 1836.³⁷ It only names his eldest children, who all appear to have been of age by that time, leaving his minor heirs to inherit when their mother either died or remarried:

*“In the name of God Amen I **John Williams** of Posey County Indiana [sic] State being weak in body but of sound and perfect mind do ordain and constitute this my last will and testament in manner and form following. [F]irst I wish all my just debts to be collected and all my just debts paid out of my property and what is owing to me. [A]s to all the rest of my real estate and personal estate I devise and bequeath to my beloved wife **Henritta** all lands and tennements [sic] goods and chattels [sic] to have and hold so long as she remains a widow, but if she marries again, or at her death, I wish all my property real and personal to be divided equally between my children deducting one hundred dollars from Each of my five oldest sons to wit **John** [and] **George** and **James** and **William** and **Benjamin** and deducting one bed and furniture belong [sic] to it and a cow from each of my two daughters to wit **Winna Malinda** and **Anna** and I hereby appoint **John Johnson** and **Henry Hunter** to be executors of this my last will and testament hereby voiding all former wills by me made. In witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirty first day of may [sic] in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty six.*

*“**John** his X mark **Williams**”*

“Signed sealed published and declared by the above named John Williams to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunto subscribe [sic] our names as witnesses in the presence of the testator.”

*“**James C. Endicott**
Joseph Endicott”*

³⁴ Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book G, page 453.

³⁵ Government Land Office Records, Accession # CV-0057-565 and CV-0080-559.

³⁶ Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book N, page 246.

³⁷ Posey County, Indiana Wills, Book A, 124 to 126.

The will was proven in court 8 Feb 1837 by the subscribing witnesses. The second witness, Joseph Endicott (son of Joseph L. and Rebecca [Casey] Endicott), is almost certainly the same person that purchased 40 acres from John and Heneritta in 1835.

It is important to point out that the will names John's sons in birth order. That increases the likelihood that he did likewise with his daughters, and that Winnie was his oldest living daughter at the time he wrote his will.

The will does not include any of John's minor children, which would be any male children under 21 years of age, or unmarried daughters under the age of 21. In fact, we find that Winnie Malinda had married, at 18 years of age, just prior to John's will being written.

A slim probate file for the estate of John Williams is found at the Indiana State Archives.³⁸ Only four estate receipts are found in it, each for \$100 worth of goods from the estate, and all four were for daughters who seemingly were not mentioned in his will:

1. John and Lucy Mahala (Williams) Price.
2. Daniel and Elizabeth (Williams) Waters.
3. Elijah and Mary An [sic] (Williams) Gooch.
4. Romeley and Permeley (Williams) Price.

Seven months after John's will was proven, written permission was granted on 5 Sep 1837 by "Henritte Williams," mother of Lucy, for her daughter to marry John Price.³⁹ And on 10 Sep 1839, "Heneritta Williams," mother of Elizabeth Williams, gave permission for Daniel Waters to marry her daughter.⁴⁰

Thus two additional daughters are identified in the four probate receipts: Mary Ann and Permeley.

So, who was the daughter Anna that was named in John's will? And why wasn't Lucy named in her father's will, since she was about the same age as Winnie? That would seem to be a key clue to determining Anna's identity. An analysis of pre-1850 Census records (presented in the section that follows) establishes that John and Ritter had only six daughters who grew to adulthood, and only two of whom were born before 1820 and were thus old enough to have been named in the will. Those two were Lucy and Winnie. But the will names Anna and Winnie, not Lucy and Winnie. But, if you ponder what given names could produce the nicknames Anna and Lucy, a likely solution is evident: It is likely that Anna's full name was Lucy Anna (or Louisiana, which became a state in 1812) Mahala Williams. Lucy's headstone states that she was born on 20 Jun 1817, while Winnie's states only that she was born in 1817. If the information on these headstones is correct, then they had to have been twins, and the Anna named in the will was the Lucy found in the probate receipt.

³⁸ *Posey County, Indiana Probate Files*, #4001-586, courtesy of the Indiana State Archives.

³⁹ *Posey County, Indiana: A Documented History, 1815-1900, Volume II* by Carroll O. and Gloria M. Cox (1987), page 261.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*, age 253.

In the 1840 Census, Ritter is living with her family in Smith Township, Posey County, apparently on the property of her son, John, who owned the 160 acres abutting the eastern edge of his father's 1835 land purchase.

In 1850 Ritter and her namesake daughter (Henrietta) are living in the household of her son, William Williams. This was probably on William's property in Section 30, T3S, R12W of Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana, where in 1838 William had patented 40 acres located near Saulmon Cemetery.⁴¹

In 1860 Ritter is living on her own in Robb Township, not far from her son James (who owned land in Section 8, T4S, R12W). A nearby neighbor in that Census was Lucinda Overton, widow of Caleb Overton, whose land abutted that of James Williams (John and Ritter's son) on two sides.

⁴¹ *Government Land Office Records*, Accession # IN2090_.030.

Proven Children

Thus, the children of John Clark and Ritter (Johnson) Williams who have been proven based upon historical records are:

1. **John Williams**, b. 8 Nov 1807, d. 27 Dec 1845.⁴² He married Betsy Creek on 17 Feb 1824 in Gibson County, Indiana. He and many of his descendants are found buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.
2. **George Washington Williams**, b. 17 Mar 1809, d. 18 Oct 1892.⁴³ He married Elizabeth Davis 28 Jul 1832. He and many of his descendants are found buried in Saulmon Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.
3. **James Williams**, b. 1 Jun 1811, 1 Sep 1901.⁴⁴ He married first Catherine McReynolds on 4 Feb 1834 in Gibson County, and second Sarah Vanway on 2 Apr 1857 in Posey County. He and many of his descendants were buried in Saulmon Cemetery.
4. **William Williams**, b. about 1814 (1860 and 1870 Census), d. 20 Nov 1893.⁴⁵ He married Mary Crabtree on 19 Jun 1837 in Gibson County.
5. **Benjamin Williams**, b. about 1816 (1850 Census), d. before 1860 (wife is widowed in 1860 Census). He married Lydia Crabtree on 28 Sep 1835 in Posey County, Indiana.
6. **Winnie Matilda Williams** (twin), b. 20 Jun 1817, d. 16 Jan 1877.⁴⁶ Married Joel Redwine Davis on 14 Jan 1836 in Posey County, Indiana.
7. **Lucy Anna Mahala Williams** (twin), b. 20 Jun 1817, d. 2 Jan 1879.⁴⁷ She married John J. Price on 6 Sep 1837 in Posey County, Indiana.
8. **Elizabeth Williams**, b. about 1821 (if age 18 when she married). She married Daniel Waters on 12 Sep 1839 in Posey County, Indiana. She likely died around 1848, as Daniel remarried in the spring of 1849.
9. **Mary Ann Williams**, b. 1822 (1850 Census). She married Elijah Gooch on 15 Mar 1843 in Posey County.
10. **Permeley Williams**, b. b. 15 Jun 1825, d. 17 May 1878.⁴⁸ She married Romelia Price on 17 Oct 1844 in Posey County.
11. **Henrietta Williams**, b. about 1828 (1850 Census). No obvious marriage or cemetery record found.

So what other children did John and Ritter have? The following comparison of the above individuals against pre-1850 Census records will tell us if anyone has been overlooked.

⁴² *Find A Grave*, memorial # 34141114 (headstone photo), Oak Grove Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

⁴³ *Find A Grave*, memorial # 74940563 (headstone photo), Saulmon Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

⁴⁴ From a *Gibson County INGenWeb* listing for Saulmon Cemetery that was derived from an earlier unreferenced survey. No headstone was found.

⁴⁵ *Indiana Deaths, 1882-1920* database by Ancestry.com.

⁴⁶ Page 379, *Montgomery Township, Directory of Cemeteries* by Gibson County Historical Society (1997). This information was provided courtesy of Dan Elliott. Also *Find A Grave* memorial # 123361906 (headstone photo, years only), Saulmon Cemetery, Gibson County, Indiana.

⁴⁷ *Find A Grave* memorial #113234714 (headstone photo), Kuykendahl Cemetery, White County, Illinois.

⁴⁸ *Find A Grave* memorial #20998645 (headstone photo), Stillwell Cemetery, Posey County, Illinois.

In 1820 John is living in Vanderburgh County, Indiana with the following household members:

- Males: three under age 10 (James, William, Benjamin), two 10-15 (John, George), one 26-44 (John).
- Females: two under age 10 (Winnie, Lucy), one 26-44 (Ritter).

In 1824, John Williams, Junior married Elizabeth Creek. They had their own household in 1830, so he is not listed in his father's household in that Census.

In 1830 John Williams, Senior is living in Smith Township with a large household:

- Males: one under age 5 (?), one 5-9 (?), one 10-14 (Benjamin), one 15-19 (William or James), one 20-29 (George), one 50-59 (John).
- Females: two under age 5 (Henrietta, Permeley), two 5-9 (Elizabeth, Mary Ann), two 10-14 (Winnie, Lucy), one 30-39 (Heneritta – her age is understated here, but is was consistent with Census records that preceded and followed).

There is one fewer male aged 15-19 than is expected based upon the proven children of John Williams, suggesting either James or William was living elsewhere at the time, likely learning a trade or helping out on a neighboring farm.⁴⁹ Or he may have been living elsewhere simply to reduce the household size from fourteen individuals down to just thirteen.

During the 1830s, George, James, William, Benjamin, Winnie, Lucy and Elizabeth got married, and their father, John, died. In 1840 John's widow is living in Smith Township, Posey County. The attributes of family members are as follows:

- Male: one age 10-14 (?).
- Females: one age 10-14 (Henrietta), two 15-19 (Mary Ann, Permeley), one 50-59 (Ritter).

What we've just learned from Census records from 1820 to 1840 is summarized in the table below:

⁴⁹ Both men were farmers at the 1850 Census, so the latter is more likely.

Census Summary for the Household of John Clark Williams⁵⁰

ID	Sex	1820	1830	1840	Child
JCW1	M	1805-1810			John, b. 1807
JCW2	M	1805-1810	1800-1810		George, b. 1809
JCW3	M	1810-1820			James, b. 1811 or William, b. 1813
JCW4	M	1810-1820	1810-1815		
JCW5	M	1810-1820	1815-1820		Benjamin, b. 1816
JCW6	F	1810-1820	1815-1820		Winnie, b. 1817
JCW7	F	1810-1820	1815-1820		Lucy Anna Mahala, b. 1817
JCW8	M		1820-1825		?
JCW9	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Elizabeth, b. 1821
JCW10	F		1820-1825	1820-1825	Mary Ann, b. 1822
JCW11	M		1825-1830	1825-1830	?
JCW12	F		1825-1830	1825-1830	Permeley, b. 1825
JCW13	F		1825-1830		Henrietta, b. 1828
Totals		7 minors	11 minors	4 minors	9 proven minors out of 13

Thus there are two males, JCW8 and JCW11 that are not accounted for. We'll consider the likely possibility for who these individuals might be in the subsection that follows.

JCW 13 poses somewhat of a problem, as there is no corresponding match in the 1840 Census, but there is in the 1850 Census. She could have simply been overlooked, was absent from the household when the Census was taken, or she wasn't a child of John and Ritter. But since she had no children of her own, the matter is of no significant consequence.

⁵⁰ Birth year ranges in each Census column are based upon the age attributes reported in each Census.

Unproven Children

Thus there are two sons of John and Ritter that have not been identified. One may not have survived to adulthood, but since Henrietta was missing from the 1840 Census, perhaps one of her brothers was as well.

There are many, many children attributed to John and Ritter in various trees at Ancestry.com, most of whom could not have been their children. An analysis of these trees for likely children of theirs points to the following individual that is worth our consideration:

- Joseph M. Williams, b. 1828.

In addition, there is one 'dark horse' that we will consider:

- Daniel Williams, b. 1825.

JCW8 – Daniel Williams?

Jim Williams, a direct descendant of Daniel Williams (b. 1825, d. 4 Mar 1864), makes a very compelling circumstantial case that Daniel was possibly a son of John and Ritter, primarily based upon the following facts:

- On 29 Sep 1848 in Posey County, Daniel Williams married Telitha Jane Hunter, who was the daughter of Henry Hunter (one of the executors of John Clark Williams' estate). Henry Hunter was also Ritter's neighbor when the 1840 Census was enumerated.
- The neighbors found in Daniel's 1850 Census record, particularly Joseph Endicott and James Lafferty, are also owners of original patents abutting the patent of John Clark Williams in Section 20, T4S, R12W. As noted earlier, John and Heneritta Williams had sold that property to Joseph Endicott in 1835. These properties were located about a mile east of Poseyville.

There is no individual in Ritter's 1840 Census record that is a match for Daniel, but there is a match in 1830. It is certainly possible that Daniel was missing from John's 1840 household because he was living elsewhere. In the 1850 Census he is said to be earning a living as a blacksmith, a trade that would have required that he apprentice under someone for several years. And a blacksmith shop would be most successful in a central location, such as Poseyville.⁵¹

JCW11 – Joseph M. Williams?

In the 1850 Census for Montgomery Township, Gibson County, Indiana, his record is in the household immediately following the household containing Heneritta (Johnson) Williams and her namesake daughter. Ritter was living in the household of her son, William, which was located near Saulmon Cemetery. Others nearby neighbors were mostly descendants of her son John Junior, whose widow was also living in the vicinity. Joseph married Rebecca Crabtree in 1847, and she was buried at Saulmon Cemetery. So circumstantial evidence makes this seem a very plausible possibility. He would be a

⁵¹ If this speculation is correct, then he most likely apprenticed with Thomas J. Malone, the first blacksmith of Poseyville.

good match for individual JW11 in the table above. However, the 1850 Census states that he was born in 1828, the same year as Henrietta Williams. That hurts the plausibility, but we would need a more accurate date of birth, or at least more than one source for his year of birth, before assigning too much weight to that one fact, and such information is not available.

Addendum 5: Other Williams Families near Cynthiana

Several Williams families can claim to have been early settlers of Posey County and the surrounding area, so it is natural to wonder if these other families might also be related to Simon Williams' family. And it is also important to attempt to make certain that members of these families are not being confused with Simon Williams' children and/or grandchildren. Historical records indicate that these earliest Williams families chose different migration paths for arriving in southwestern Indiana, and their various arrival dates span a period of about twenty years.

At least one direct male descendant of Simon Williams has been yDNA tested and is a participant in the Williams DNA Project at williams.genealogy.fm. He descends from Bennet Williams, his Kit Number is 102368 and he is part of the R1b1a2 haplogroup.⁵² There currently are no close matches to his genetic profile, meaning that no other direct male descendant of Simon's is participating in the Williams DNA Project at this time (or if there is, he is not a close match, suggesting that someone's paper trail is in error).

(yDNA is inherited from the father and is nearly always an exact copy. While mutations sometimes occur when these copies are made, the rates of mutation are well known, so over the course of several generations there are very few mutations that are likely to have occurred. While there is no known direct evidence that Bennet Williams was a child of Simon Williams, you've seen in *Volume 1* that the circumstantial evidence is pretty conclusive. So any direct male descendant of another child of Simon's should be a close match to Kit Number 102368. Such results would be additional evidence to help establish the relatedness of Simon Williams' other sons, particularly those where no direct evidence exists to tie them to Simon.)

Posey County

Smith Township

Jacob Williams

The Williams family found in closest proximity to Simon's family was that of Jacob Williams. On 8 Aug 1816, Jacob Williams purchased 320 acres in Section 1 of Smith Township, which Joseph Rosborough had originally entered on 25 Oct 1814. That is within a half mile of two properties that Lewis Williams had owned and within a mile of Simon Williams' property. It is almost certain that he had arrived in Smith Township after Simon, George and Bennet Williams, who all entered land from the Federal Government between 28 Mar 1814 and 28 Dec 1814.

It is speculated that Jacob had moved to Posey County from the vicinity of Lexington, Kentucky. He never appears in Census records for Posey County and his 320 acre patent was the subject of a deed dated 24 Aug 1831⁵³ "Between Isaac Williams of Posey County and State of Indiana & John Marvel and Elizabeth Marvel his wife late Elizabeth Williams heir of Jacob Williams of Tennessee Dec'd of the one part and Benjamin Carter

⁵² Defining or explaining haplogroups is beyond of the scope of this book. It is sufficient to say that haplogroups describe unique DNA characteristics of ancient ancestors dating back thousands of years.

⁵³ *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book E*, page 398.

of Posey County and State of Indiana of the other part.” Benjamin Ford Carter was the husband of Rachel Catherine Williams, and it would appear that she and her husband had purchased the two-thirds interest in the property owned by the other two surviving heirs of Jacob Williams. Jacob is thought to have died in Maury County, Tennessee on 12 May 1831 (unsourced), which would be consistent with the date that this property was sold. In the 1830 Census there are two Isaac Williams living in Posey County: one is related to the Williams family of Bethel Township, which will be discussed next; the other lived in Mount Vernon, but is not found in Census records of Posey County before or after 1830. This latter Isaac lived near the McFadin’s, who had migrated from Warren County, Kentucky, though there is no evidence directly linking him to any Williams families that had lived there.

(There is evidence that a Jacob Williams was living in Maury County, Tennessee on 6 Jan 1825. He was involved in a court ordered decree to allot a “parcel of negros” as part of an estate settlement [presumably the estate of Aron {sic} Hunter, though that is not completely clear]. He and his wife were allotted a slave named Jinny.⁵⁴ On 20 Dec 1823, a Jacob Williams filed a claim of \$1.25 against the estate of Parmenas Howard,⁵⁵ and on the same date he was shown as having purchased property in the amount of \$18.19 from the estate of West Harris.⁵⁶ No estate file was located for Jacob as part of the research for this book.)

Ella Yeakel Armstrong, on page 18 of her book entitled *The History of the Marvel Family* (typescript, circa 1920), tells us the following about John Marvel:

“On July 19, 1825 John Marvel was married to Elizabeth Williams, daughter of John [sic] Williams, and a native of Tennessee. Their children were John, Mary Ann, Andrew Jackson, and Elizabeth Clark Marvel.”

Despite the error in her father’s name, this is same person named in the above deed. Per Ms. Armstrong, she was John Marvel’s second wife.

Bethel Township

The Williams of Bethel Township are descendants of various Williams who had lived in Newberry County, South Carolina around the time of the Revolutionary War. Most are descendants of Daniel and Cassandra (Prather) Williams, with the line of their son, John “Prater” Williams, being one of the better documented for this family. They first migrated to Christian County, Kentucky and arrived in Posey County between 1810 and 1813. This family also spills over into Robb Township in Posey County and Wabash and Montgomery Townships in Gibson County.

Descendants of this family are participants in the Williams DNA Project, where they are members of Group 41 and are also part of the R1b1a2 haplogroup. A comparison of genetic markers against the one known direct male descendant of Simon Williams finds

⁵⁴ *Maury County, Tennessee Wills, Book D*, pages 191-193.

⁵⁵ *Maury County, Tennessee Wills, Book C*, page 5.

⁵⁶ *Maury County, Tennessee Wills, Book C*, page 34.

that they are not closely related, despite being part of the same haplogroup. An interesting aside is that two of Simon's children married children of James and Elender Cater (or Cato), who also had lived in Newberry County, within two miles of the ancestors of the Group 41 Williams. This highlights how proximity alone is not sufficient to establish relatedness, even back before 1800 in a sparsely populated rural area.

Robb Township

Urbane Williams was born in Virginia on 12 May 1789 and died 25 Jun 1848. His wife was Nancy Johnson and they were married in Lincoln County, Kentucky on 24 Sep 1810.⁵⁷ It appears that prior to moving to Posey County they had lived in Nelson County, Kentucky (so there is a possibility that this family may be somehow related to that of Jacob Williams). His family settled in Posey County around 1828. It is mainly his family members who are most often confused with descendants of Simon Williams, as they are the group that lived closest to Smith Township.

The date and place of his birth suggests he is not related to the Williams families of Bethel Township, and his migration route suggests that he is not closely related to the family of Simon Williams.

Marrs Township

There were two or more early Williams families in Marrs Township. Elkanah Williams ran a ferry to Diamond Island in 1813 and made a land entry there in 1814. He is last found in Posey County records in 1817 in two deeds: one to his daughter, Elizabeth, and another to a niece, Dice.⁵⁸ By 1819 he had also entered land in Wayne County, Illinois, so it is presumed that he had left the area by then. He is not found in the 1820 Census for either locality.

John Williams entered land in Marrs Township in 1817, and the 1820 Census there includes John, Rufus, Sawyer and William Williams. All of these names are missing from the 1830 Census, though a Jesse Williams is found there at that time. John Williams continued to patent land there until at least 1838. No Williams households are found in Marrs Township in the 1840 Census.

Gibson County

Early Census records for Gibson County did not group results by township, making it more difficult to determine in what part of the county particular individuals had lived. But it is often easy enough to find uniquely named people listed in Census records that are also found in the records of the General Land Office. Thus it is possible to determine with reasonable accuracy the general location of their neighborhoods.

⁵⁷ Ancestry.com's *Kentucky Marriages, 1802-1850*.

⁵⁸ *Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book A*, pages 165 and 167.

Montgomery Township, Gibson County – 1820

Robert Williams

Robert Williams is found in the 1820 Census for Gibson County. Based upon names of neighbors, he appears to be living near Princeton at the time, at the north end of Montgomery Township. There is a Robert Williams who entered land at least six miles east and twelve miles north of Cynthiana (in Township 2 South, Range 11 West [Seminary Township of Knox County]), but that occurred seven years after this Census, in 1827. There is also a Robert Williams that sold a portion of Section 12, T3S, R11W (near Fort Branch) on 24 Aug 1847.⁵⁹

The neighbors from the Census are likewise of little help. A review of original patentees turned up no pattern of familiar individuals owning adjoining tracts. Due to his remoteness to the other Williams families that settled in a concentrated part of Smith Township, his children are *not likely* to have been related to Simon's family.

Montgomery Township, Gibson County - 1830

Daniel Williams

Based upon who his neighbors were, Daniel lived at the eastern edge of Montgomery Township, probably due west of Owensville. By 1840 he appears to have migrated a short distance to the west, to Wabash Township. No 1850 Census record was found for this individual, but he is thought to likely have been related to Daniel and Cassandra (Prather) Williams.

William Williams

There is a household for a William Williams, but there are not any familiar neighbors nearby. It looks as though he may have lived in Columbia Township, on the eastern side of Gibson County (which is far removed from our families of interest).

Thomas Williams

On 12 Mar 1816 Thomas Williams married Hannah Lindsay in Gibson County. Thomas' grave is found at White River Chapel Cemetery in Pike County, Indiana (just east of Princeton).⁶⁰ Land records there show transactions with a widow Susannah Lindsey. While there was a George W. Lindsay who was a neighbor of Jacob Williams, there is no reason to suspect any relationship between him and the widow Susannah Lindsey.

Lemuel Williams

Lemuel Williams lived in Montgomery Township, and later Census records establish that he was born in 1792 in South Carolina. Because he was born in South Carolina, he is thought to possibly have been related to Daniel and Cassandra (Prather) Williams.

Elizabeth (Williams) Marvel

John Rogers Marvel married Elizabeth Williams on 19 Jul 1825 in Posey County, in a service performed by Reverend William M. Smith. John's Census records for 1830 and

⁵⁹ Posey County, Indiana Deeds, Book L, Page 284.

⁶⁰ Find A Grave, memorial #30887899 (headstone photo), White River Chapel Cemetery, Pike County, Indiana.

1840 show a wife born between 1800 and 1810. If she married at the customary age of 18, then she was born around 1807, and was almost certainly born after 1800. As noted earlier, there is direct evidence that she was the daughter of Jacob Williams, who owned 320 acres in the extreme northeastern portion of Smith Township, Posey County. No other records exist for marriages performed by Reverend Smith, who may have been the William Smith who patented land abutting the southern line of Jacob Williams' property.

Wabash Township, Gibson County - 1830

Joseph Williams

Joseph appears to have lived in Wabash Township in the vicinity of several Tweedle families; a surname closely associated with the descendants of Daniel and Cassandra (Prather) Williams.

Vanderburgh County

In 1820, the only two Williams families in Vanderburgh County were living in Armstrong Township – Lewis Williams and John Williams. The latter would seem to be the best available match for John Clark Williams.

In 1830 we once again find Lewis, but now there is a much younger John Williams living in Armstrong Township.

It appears there are no unrelated Williams families that were early settlers of Vanderburgh County.

Addendum 6: A Look at Simon Williams Family Researchers

Many descendants have researched various family lines of Simon Williams and his children, so it is worthwhile to attempt to assess how they descend from him. So the following sections are headed by the name of one of Simon's children, with the known researchers listed in alphabetical first name order, together with a very brief biography and a list of their ancestors back to Simon Williams.

At a minimum this addendum points out where some lines may be on a more solid foundation than others. It also shows how many generations removed the researchers were from Simon, and looking at the dates of birth and death of their direct ancestors can help determine if any information that they contributed was likely to have been obtained from a family member that had direct knowledge of Simon or one of his children or grandchildren.

This section also points out where no written accounts were found for some of the lines of Simon Williams' children. For instance, it appears that few, if any, of William Williams' descendants are alive to today. But efforts are also missing for Polly (Williams) Harmon, Eleanor (Williams) Harmon, Winnie (Williams) Johnson, George Williams, Sally (Williams) Martin and Anna (Williams) Johnson. Most of these omissions are likely due to a bias of researching the father's line, as the first tendency is to research your own surname and later to develop a greater interest in the many other ancestral surnames. And women typically were absent from the majority of records kept prior to 1850, with the exception of marriage records.

“If you would not be forgotten
as soon as you are dead and rotten,
either write things worth reading
or do things worth the writing.”

- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

John Clark Williams Descendants

Barbara Jean (Wimpelberg) Kennedy

Barbara was a 1966 graduate of the University of Evansville and member of the Tri-State Genealogical Society. At some point prior to her death in 2000 she donated a draft copy of her book entitled *A Williams Family of Indiana* to Willard Library in Evansville, Indiana. She was mistaken about John Clark Williams being the son of Simon Williams. Her descent from John Clark Williams is as follows:

John Clark Williams and Heneritta Johnson
John Williams and Elizabeth Creek
Jacob Williams and Elizabeth Ann Gibbs
Rosa Williams and Albert Melton Forcum
Amy Fern Forcum and James Ivison Wright
Ruth Lavern Wright and John Wimpelberg
Barbara Jean Wimpelberg

Mary Grace Christmas

An unsigned letter dated 30 Apr 1975 (likely by Gloria Cox) states in regard to Simon Williams' family, that "*Miss Mary Grace Christmas of Poseyville has done the most extensive work on John and Heneritta's family she being a descendant.*" It is not known what became of her research after her death on 11 Jun 1975. It seems she had only one surviving sibling, Charles Lee Christmas. Her descent from John Clark Williams is as follows:

John Clark Williams and Heneritta Johnson
Winnie M. Williams and Joel Redwine Davis
James Mallard Davis and Annice Grace Price
Ellen Lorene Davis and Charles L. Christmas
Mary Grace Christmas

Phebe (Williams) Pruitt Descendants

Carroll Otto Cox

Carroll O. Cox and his wife, Gloria Hope (Montgomery) authored around two dozen or more books about southwestern Indiana families and vital records. Gloria descends from Hannah Journey. Carroll descends from Simon Williams, as follows:

Simon Williams

Phebe Williams & Moses Pruitt

Mary “Polly” Pruitt and Isaiah Wilkinson

William Wilson Wilkinson and Amanda Jane Redman

Ella Wilkinson and Jasper A. Carroll

Carroll Otto Cox

Evelyn V. (Pfingston) Dismore

Evelyn is the author of several books published from 1991 to 2012, primarily about the Pfingston family and various topics related to Marshall County, Kentucky, Vanderburgh County, Indiana and a few other areas. She was also a contributor to *Volume 1* of this book. Her descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams

Phebe Williams and Moses Pruitt

John B. Pruitt and Elizabeth Holcomb

Lydia Jane Pruitt and Charles Smith Martin

Betrum Victor Martin and Clara E. Mossman

Ruby Mae Martin and Major Samuel Pfingston

Evelyn V. Pfingston

Roy Samuel and Edith L. Martin

Roy and his wife, who was born Edith Louise Miller, recorded Roy’s Martin, Pruitt, Clay and Speakman family history in a typewritten booklet, entitled *Martin Family Genealogy* (1971). The Pruitt genealogy stops a couple of generations short of Simon Williams, and parts of it have confused various members of the family, but the booklet is an incredible resource of detailed descriptions of several older members of his Pruitt and Martin ancestors. His descendants were contributors to *Volume 1* of this book. His descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams

Phebe Williams and Moses B. Pruitt

John B. Pruitt and Elizabeth Holcomb

Lydia Jane Pruitt and Charles Scott Martin

Gilbert Ezra Martin and Katherine Clay

Roy Samuel Martin

Jeanne (Roesner) Miller

Jeanne was involved with the Tri-State Genealogical Society, authored at least one book on the German immigrants of Posey County, Indiana, and provided material for a brief article about the Cater family of Vanderburgh and Posey County, Indiana. Her descent from Simon is as follows:

Simon Williams
Phebe Williams & Moses Pruitt
Mary “Polly” Pruitt and Isaiah Wilkinson
Moses Aaron Wilkinson and Nancy Jane Bixler
Elizabeth S. Wilkinson and Ora Edgar Smith
Myra Gladys Smith and Wilbur C. Roesner
Jeanne Roesner and unknown Miller

Paul K. Montgomery

Paul was the former editor of *Weedman Newsletter* (Weedman was the name of his maternal grandmother) and author of *Our Montgomery Family History, 1780-1968*. His second wife, Marianne (Shaw) Montgomery took over as editor of the newsletter after his death in 1988. His descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams
Phebe Williams and Moses Pruitt
Phoebe Elizabeth Pruitt and Samuel Montgomery
John W. Montgomery and Martha V. Franklin
Samuel F. Montgomery and Mandana Huff
Paul Kasper Montgomery

John Felix Pruitt

John was a contributor to Charles Raymond Dillon’s *Pruitt-Prewitt Ancestors* (1960) and the subject of a biography found in *History of Vanderburgh County, Indiana* by Brant and Fuller (1889). His information is also cited by Robert E. Turman and Elias Olan James (per Barbara [Winkelberg] Kennedy). He is thought to have been the source of the most accurate birth information about the children of Simon Williams, as found in Mrs. Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey’s booklet (see Bennet Williams’ Descendants). His descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams
Phebe Williams and Moses Pruitt
William Pruitt and Elizabeth Spain
John Felix Pruitt

Sally Boucher (Spilman) Williams

Sally was the sister of John Jasper Spilman, author of *History of the Spilman Family* (1909). Her first husband was Simon A. Williams, son of Lewis Williams. Her second husband was John B. Pruitt, son of Phebe (Williams) Pruitt. Her connection to Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams

Lewis Williams and Elender Cater

Simon A. Williams and Sally Boucher Spilman

and

Simon Williams

Phebe Williams and Moses Pruitt

John B. Pruitt and Sally Boucher Spilman

Bennet Williams Descendants

Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey

Avis was the author of *Looking Backward Ten Generations: with connected families* (published after 1934),⁶¹ a copy of which can be found in Ancestry.com's Card Catalog. The source of the information about her Williams line was Zereldia (Williams) Wade, granddaughter of Bennet Williams. Zereldia was born 1845 and died in 1932. Avis died in 1955.

The "Ten Generations" of the title are primarily for two family lines: those of Bennet Williams and those of his wife, Polly Martin. Avis incorrectly attributed Simon Williams' father to be Simon Williams who died in 1808 in Warren County, North Carolina (see *Addendum 1: Simon Williams' Ancestors?*). Her thoughts on the ancestry of Polly Martin were disproven in *Volume 1, Chapter 5*. There are a number of details in the book that are suspect as covered in detail in *Volume 1*, so any reader would be wise to look for corroboration elsewhere before accepting any of her information as fact.

Avis' descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams
Bennet Williams and Mary "Polly" Martin
John Marshall Williams and Elizabeth Louisa Allen
Zereldia Williams and George W. Wade
Eudora E. Wade and Oran Adolph Wise
Avis Beatrice Wise

Leonard Skelton Williams

In 1959 Leonard shared a brief typescript family history with his nephew, Robert Kent Williams. The author is unknown, though likely a second great grandson of Simon Williams (possibly Leonard). His descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams
Bennet Williams and Mary "Polly" Martin
James Martin Williams and Julia Ann McDonald
Elias Williams and Emmaline Cleveland
James Calvin Williams and Nancy Skelton
Leonard Skelton Williams

⁶¹ This lineage appears to be the source of a summarized version of the same found on page 359 of *The Compendium of American Genealogy, Volume VII* edited by Frederick Adams Virkus, F.I.A.G. (1942).

Elias Olan James

Professor E. O. James of Oakland, California was an English professor at Mills College, Leland Sanford University and the husband of Rosetta Epperson (who is one of Bennet's descendants). He appears to have never published any information pertaining to Simon Williams or any of his children, but he has been used as a source by Robert E. Turman and Barbara Jean (Wimpelberg) Kennedy. Specifically, Ms. Kennedy cites him as the source of information collected from John Felix Pruitt in 1925. Since it is John Felix Pruitt that seems to have been the source of the best information regarding Simon Williams' family it is worth recording what is known about Professor James' connection to Simon Williams.

Professor James was the brother-in-law of Eva Mae (Epperson) Atkinson (see *Volume 1, Chapter 5*) and was thus connected by marriage to Avis Beatrice (Wise) Ramsey. That knowledge helps to corroborate speculation that the information about Simon Williams' children found in Ms. Ramsey's book had originated from John Felix Pruitt.

Simon Williams

Bennet Williams and Mary "Polly" Martin

Letitia Matilda Williams and John T. Neely Mangrum

Mary C. Mangrum and David A. Epperson

Rosetta E. Epperson and Elias Olan James

Enoch Williams Descendants

Judge Herdis Clements

Robert E. Turman stated that “**Simon Williams**, a revolutionary war soldier, was the literal founder of all the present **Williams** families of southern Indiana, including our well-known friend, **Judge Hertis [sic] Clements**.” This suggests that the two gentlemen were acquainted and both had an interest in family history, and Herdis Clements is known to have authored an address for the 1937 Reunion of the Wilson Family of Posey County (descendants of Lewis Wilson, believed to have been his wife’s lineage). Herdis Clements served as a Posey County Circuit Judge for 38 years and was a former mayor of Mount Vernon, Indiana. He died 24 Oct 1962 at 90 years of age. His grandfather, Henry Harrison Williams, who died when Herdis was 7 years old, was born prior to the deaths of Enoch Williams and Simon Williams. His descent from Simon Williams is as follows:



Simon Williams

Enoch Williams and Lydia Lowe

Henry Harrison Williams and Melvina M. McReynolds

Eliza Ann Williams and Frederick Clements

Herdis F. Clements

Lewis Williams Descendants

Steven Malone (the author)

A 1991 graduate of the University of Washington's College of Architecture and Urban Planning and a retired urban planner. His descent from Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams
Lewis Williams and Elender Cater
Permelia Williams and Absalom Malone
William Thomas Malone and Minnie Nancy Russell
Paul Edward Malone and Eva Pearl Wiggins
Paul Elmar Malone and Mary Ellen Adams
Steven Malone

Sally Boucher (Spilman) Williams

Sally was the sister of John Jasper Spilman, author of *History of the Spilman Family* (1909). Her first husband was Simon A. Williams, a son of Lewis Williams. Her second husband was John B. Pruitt, as son of Phebe (Williams) Pruitt. Her connection to Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams
Lewis Williams and Elender Cater
Simon A. Williams and Sally Boucher Spilman

and

Simon Williams
Phebe Williams and Moses Pruitt
John B. Pruitt and Sally Boucher Spilman

Jemima (Williams) Cater Descendants

Harold L. Cox

Harold authored a paper entitled The Cater Family of Vanderburgh and Posey Counties, which appeared in the Sep 1992 edition of the *Tri-State Packet*. Among his sources were Carroll and Gloria Cox, Judith Svoboda, Jeanne Miller and Sylvia Cater Aud. His line of descent was:

Simon Williams
Jemima Williams and Joseph Cater
Melissa Cater and Isaac Cox
Samuel Asbury Cater and Mary L. Smiley
Cyril Allen Cox and Eulalia H. Stinchfield
Harold Lawrence Cox and unknown
Harold Lee Cox

Sylvia (Cater) Aud

She collaborated with Harold L. Cox on a brief history of the Cater family in southwestern Indiana. Her line of descent is:

Simon Williams
Jemima Williams and Joseph Cater
Daniel Cater and Nancy Lawson
William Cater and Sarah Catherine Broyles
Wilbur Allen Cater and Cleo Vasties Coulter
Sylvia Arlene Cater and Kenneth J. Aud

Non-Descendants

Miss Della Williams

Della Williams was a DAR member (#561002) descended from the Simon Williams who has been disproven to be an ancestor of our Simon Williams. Her line of descent is:

Simon Williams

William Williams and unknown

Simon Williams and Martha Green

William Allison Williams and Adella Wade

Willis Harrison Williams and Lillian Storie

Della Katherine Williams

Gloria Hope (Montgomery) Cox

Gloria Cox and her husband, Carroll Otto Cox, amassed a mountain of genealogical information about southwestern Indiana, publishing several books and donating their research material to Willard Library in Evansville. While she is not a direct descendant of Simon Williams, she is descended from several pioneer families of Posey and Gibson County:

*Joseph and Margaret (Megee) Journey*⁶²

Samuel and Mary (Berry) Nesbit

Prettyman and Lavina (Rogers) Marvel

*Robin and Patience (Marvel) Montgomery*⁶³

James Knowles and Patience Marvel

Nathan Knowles and Temperence Boren

Joseph Endicott and Rebecca Casey

Lewis Stinson Rose and Cynthia Ann Sword

⁶² Parents of Audra (Journey) William (wife of George Harrison Williams).

⁶³ Whose sons Prettyman and Samuel married daughters of Moses and Phebe (Williams) Pruitt.

Mrs. Marvin Huff

Mabel (Williams) Huff, wife of Marvin J. Huff, Senior, was a DAR member (#388669) descended from the Simon Williams who has been disproven to be an ancestor of our Simon Williams. She submitted the first application to approve the lineage to the Simon Williams discussed in *Addendum 1: Simon Williams' Ancestors?* For a time she served as regent of the Anthony McGary Chapter of the DAR. Her descent from the DAR Simon Williams is as follows:

Simon Williams

William Williams and unknown

Simon Williams and Martha Green

Franklin Simon Williams and Annie Agnes Black

Lewis Simon Williams and Johnnie Pearl Taylor

Mabel N. Williams

Descent Unknown

Nancy Burns

It was not possible to learn anything about Ms. Burns. She collaborated with several DAR members in researching a possible connection between our Simon Williams and the Simon Williams discussed in *Addendum 1*.

Mrs. H. D. Humphreys

It is thought this is likely another descendant of the DAR Simon Williams, either member #504235 or #507908.

Mrs. Robert W. Howe

It is thought this is likely another descendant of the DAR Simon Williams, either member #504235 or #507908.

“If it is a Miracle,
any sort of evidence will answer,
but if it is a Fact,
proof is necessary.”
- MARK TWAIN